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URBAN DISTRICT OF SEDGLEY

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INTERIM

# Annual Reports

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health  
and Sanitary Inspector

FOR THE YEAR

1944.

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BILSTON & SEDGLEY:

JOHN PRICE & SONS, PRINTERS.



URBAN DISTRICT OF SEDGLEY

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**Chairman of Health Committee.**

Councillor W. P. BOOTH, J.P.

**Medical Officer of Health.**F. B. MACKENZIE, D.S.O., M.C., M.A., M.B., Ch. B., D.P.H.  
(serving with His Majesty's Forces).C. H. G. BEKENN, M.B., Ch.B. (temporary appointment,  
3/10/39).**Chief Sanitary Inspector and Cleansing Superintendent.**DAVID J. W. ROBERTSON, M.S.I.A., A.M.Inst.P.C.,  
Cert. Meat and Food Inspector.**Medical Officer's Clerk and Billeting Officer.**

W. A. PEARSON.

**Pupil to Sanitary Inspector.**

R. BOWYER.

**Public Health Clerks.**

Miss B. MULLETT.

Miss G. WILLIAMS.

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**STATISTICAL SUMMARY, 1944.**

Area, 3,854 acres.

Population, 21,070.

Number of Inhabited Houses, 5,736.

Sum represented by a penny rate, £324.

Rateable Value, £83,598.

General Rate, 16/6 in the £.

Birth Rate, 17.94.

Death Rate, 9.25.

Infantile Death Rate, per 1,000 Births, 31.7.

Total Deaths from Diarrhoea, 1; Rate per 1,000 Births, 2.6.

Deaths from Pulmonary Tuberculosis, 10; From other Tuberculous Diseases, 2.

Tuberculosis Death Rate: Pulmonary, 0.47; Non-Pulmonary, 0.09.



# ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

for the

URBAN DISTRICT OF SEDGLEY

To the Chairman and Members of the Sedgley Urban  
District Council.

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Ladies and Gentlemen,

My Annual Report for this fifth year of war is again presented to you as an abridged one, but any records appertaining to the pre-war Tables, which are for the time excluded, are carefully preserved and available for future information if necessary.

After five years of war, substantial grounds for congratulation and satisfaction can be found in the way the general health of the District has withstood the stresses and strains of war. The death rate and the rates for still-births, maternal mortality and infantile mortality are lower.

The Infantile Mortality Rate of 31.7 is lower than the rate of the country as a whole, which is 46.

The Birth Rate for the year again shows an increase on the previous year, being 17.94, against 17.37, and is higher than the rate for England and Wales, which is 17.6.

The Death Rate of 9.25 is lower than last year when it was 11.21, and is lower than the rate for the country, which is 11.6.

There has been a decrease in the number of cases of tuberculosis notified, 22 as against 27 in 1943, and infectious diseases generally show a considerable fall, 129 as compared with 306 in the previous year.

As regards diphtheria there has been a welcome decrease here, 42 cases in 1943 falling to 10 during the year under review. Intensive and well directed propaganda by the Health Visitors in

their visits to households have contributed greatly to the persuasion of parents to give their children the protection afforded by immunisation.

In respect of housing as far as the erection of new houses is concerned nothing has been done apart from ear-marking and securing suitable sites on which it is sincerely hoped a start will be made as soon as possible.

I return my thanks to Wolverhampton Royal and Dudley Guest Hospitals, the Tuberculosis Officers and Dispensaries, the County Laboratory; and to Dr. C. Simpson Smith, one of the Assistant County School Medical Officers for the efficient service he has given in Diphtheria Immunisation.

My best thanks are also rendered to the Medical Practitioners in the District for their co-operation.

In conclusion, I wish to convey to the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee my appreciation of their unfailing interest in the health of the community.

To the Sanitary Inspector and my colleagues in the Health Department I also acknowledge my indebtedness.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

C. H. G. BEKENN,

Medical Officer of Health,

September, 1945.

## VITAL STATISTICS.

## LIVE BIRTHS.

|              |      |      | M.  | F.  |
|--------------|------|------|-----|-----|
| Total        | .... | .... | 197 | 181 |
| Legitimate   | .... | .... | 193 | 179 |
| Illegitimate | .... | .... | 4   | 2   |

Birth Rate—17.94.

## STILL BIRTHS.

|              |      |      | M. | F. |
|--------------|------|------|----|----|
| Total        | .... | .... | 2  | 7  |
| Legitimate   | .... | .... | 1  | 7  |
| Illegitimate | .... | .... | 1  | —  |

Rate per 1,000 Total Births—23.2

|        |      |      | Total | M.  | F. |            |
|--------|------|------|-------|-----|----|------------|
| Deaths | .... | .... | 195   | 111 | 84 | Rate—9.25. |

Number of women dying in or in consequence of childbirth:—

From Sepsis, 0. Other maternal causes, 0.

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age:—

All Infants per 1,000 live births, 31.7.

Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births, 31.7.

Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births, 0.0.

Deaths from Cancer (all ages), 29.

Deaths from Measles (all ages), 0.

Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages), 0.

Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age), 1.

TABLE I.  
BIRTH RATES.

| Year. | SEDGLEY.       |             | England and<br>Wales,<br>Birth Rate. |
|-------|----------------|-------------|--------------------------------------|
|       | No. of Births. | Birth Rate. |                                      |
| 1936  | 288            | 14.4        | 14.8                                 |
| 1937  | 292            | 14.4        | 14.9                                 |
| 1938  | 321            | 15.8        | 15.1                                 |
| 1939  | 304            | 14.69       | 15.0                                 |
| 1940  | 299            | 14.21       | 14.6                                 |
| 1941  | 294            | 13.77       | 14.2                                 |
| 1942  | 331            | 15.7        | 15.8                                 |
| 1943  | 364            | 17.37       | 16.5                                 |
| 1944  | 378            | 17.94       | 17.6                                 |

TABLE II.  
DEATH RATES.

| Year. | SEDGLEY.       |             | England and<br>Wales,<br>Death Rate. |
|-------|----------------|-------------|--------------------------------------|
|       | No. of Deaths. | Death Rate. |                                      |
| 1936  | 220            | 11.0        | 12.1                                 |
| 1937  | 222            | 11.0        | 12.4                                 |
| 1938  | 221            | 10.9        | 11.6                                 |
| 1939  | 251            | 12.07       | 12.1                                 |
| 1940  | 236            | 11.22       | 14.3                                 |
| 1941  | 242            | 11.33       | 12.9                                 |
| 1942  | 232            | 11.0        | 11.6                                 |
| 1943  | 235            | 11.21       | 12.1                                 |
| 1944  | 195            | 9.25        | 11.6                                 |



TABLE III.

## CAUSES OF DEATH DURING THE YEAR 1944.

## Causes of Death:—

|    |  |      |      |      |      | M.  | F. |
|----|--|------|------|------|------|-----|----|
|    | All Causes                                     | .... | .... | .... | .... | 111 | 84 |
| 1  | Typhoid Fever, etc.                            | .... | .... | .... | .... | —   | —  |
| 2  | Cerebro-spinal Fever                           | .... | .... | .... | .... | —   | —  |
| 3  | Scarlet Fever                                  | .... | .... | .... | .... | 1   | —  |
| 4  | Whooping Cough                                 | .... | .... | .... | .... | —   | —  |
| 5  | Diphtheria                                     | .... | .... | .... | .... | —   | —  |
| 6  | Respiratory Tuberculosis                       | .... | .... | .... | .... | 7   | 3  |
| 7  | Other Tuberculosis                             | .... | .... | .... | .... | 1   | 1  |
| 8  | Syphilitic Diseases                            | .... | .... | .... | .... | —   | —  |
| 9  | Influenza                                      | .... | .... | .... | .... | 3   | —  |
| 10 | Measles  | .... | .... | .... | .... | —   | —  |
| 11 | Poliomyelitis and Poliœncephalitis             | .... | .... | .... | .... | —   | —  |
| 12 | Acute Infectious Encephalitis                  | .... | .... | .... | .... | —   | —  |
| 13 | Cancer of Buccal Cavity and Oesophagus (males) |      |      |      |      |     |    |
|    | Uterus (F.)                                    | .... | .... | .... | .... | 1   | 3  |
| 14 | Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum                 | .... | .... | .... | .... | 3   | —  |
| 15 | Cancer of Breast                               | .... | .... | .... | .... | —   | 2  |
| 16 | Cancer of all other sites                      | .... | .... | .... | .... | 13  | 7  |
| 17 | Diabetes                                       | .... | .... | .... | .... | —   | 1  |
| 18 | Intra-cranial Vascular Lesions                 | .... | .... | .... | .... | 10  | 15 |
| 19 | Heart Disease                                  | .... | .... | .... | .... | 23  | 29 |
| 20 | Other Diseases of Circulatory System           | .... | .... | .... | .... | 1   | 1  |
| 21 | Bronchitis                                     | .... | .... | .... | .... | 9   | 2  |
| 22 | Pneumonia                                      | .... | .... | .... | .... | 5   | 4  |
| 23 | Other Respiratory Diseases                     | .... | .... | .... | .... | 1   | —  |
| 24 | Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum                   | .... | .... | .... | .... | 2   | —  |
| 25 | Diarrhoea (under 2 years)                      | .... | .... | .... | .... | 1   | —  |
| 26 | Appendicitis                                   | .... | .... | .... | .... | —   | —  |
| 27 | Other Digestive Diseases                       | .... | .... | .... | .... | 2   | 2  |
| 28 | Nephritis                                      | .... | .... | .... | .... | —   | 2  |
| 29 | Puerperal Sepsis                               | .... | .... | .... | .... | —   | —  |
| 30 | Other Maternal causes                          | .... | .... | .... | .... | —   | —  |
| 31 | Premature Birth                                | .... | .... | .... | .... | 4   | 1  |
| 32 | Congenital Malformations, Birth Injuries, etc. |      |      |      |      | 2   | 1  |
| 33 | Suicide  | .... | .... | .... | .... | 1   | —  |
| 34 | Road Traffic Accidents                         | .... | .... | .... | .... | 2   | 1  |
| 35 | Other violent causes                           | .... | .... | .... | .... | 5   | —  |
| 36 | All other causes                               | .... | .... | .... | .... | 14  | 9  |

TABLE III.—(Continued).

|   |      |      |      |      | M.  | F.  |
|---|------|------|------|------|-----|-----|
| Deaths of Infants under one year: Total | ...  |      |      |      | 8   | 4   |
| Legitimate                              | .... | .... | .... | .... | 8   | 4   |
| Illegitimate                            | .... | .... | .... | ...  | —   | —   |
| Live Births: Total                      | .... | .... | .... | ...  | 197 | 181 |
| Legitimate                              | .... | .... | .... | .... | 193 | 179 |
| Illegitimate                            | .... | .... | .... | .... | 4   | 2   |
| Stillbirths: Total                      | .... | .... | .... | .... | 2   | 7   |
| Legitimate                              | .... | .... | .... | .... | 1   | 7   |
| Illegitimate                            | .... | .... | .... | .... | 1   | —   |

The highest number of deaths were attributable to the following causes:—

|                                |      |      |      |      |      | 1944 | 1943 |
|--------------------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Heart Disease                  | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 52   | 42   |
| Cancer                         | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 29   | 40   |
| Intra-cranial Vascular Lesions | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 25   | 22   |
| Bronchitis                     | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 11   | 19   |
| Pulmonary Tuberculosis         | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 10   | 14   |
| Pneumonia                      | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 9    | 12   |

TABLE V.  
INFANTILE MORTALITY, 1944.

Nett Deaths from causes stated at various ages under one year of age:—

| Causes of Death.                    | Under 1 Week. | 1—2 Weeks. | 2—3 Weeks. | 3—4 Weeks. | Total under one month | 1—3 Months. | 3—6 Months. | 6—9 Months. | 9—12 Months. | Total Deaths under one Year |
|-------------------------------------|---------------|------------|------------|------------|-----------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|--------------|-----------------------------|
| All causes ....                     | 4             | 1          | 2          | ...        | 7                     | 2           | 1           | 2           | ...          | 12                          |
| Smallpox ....                       | ...           | ...        | ...        | ...        | ...                   | ...         | ...         | ...         | ...          | ...                         |
| Chicken-pox ....                    | ...           | ...        | ...        | ...        | ...                   | ...         | ...         | ...         | ...          | ...                         |
| Measles ....                        | ...           | ...        | ...        | ...        | ...                   | ...         | ...         | ...         | ...          | ...                         |
| Scarlet Fever ....                  | ...           | ...        | ...        | ...        | ...                   | ...         | ...         | ...         | ...          | ...                         |
| Whooping Cough ....                 | ...           | ...        | ...        | ...        | ...                   | ...         | ...         | ...         | ...          | ...                         |
| Diphtheria and Croup ....           | ...           | ...        | ...        | ...        | ...                   | ...         | ...         | ...         | ...          | ...                         |
| Erysipelas ....                     | ...           | ...        | ...        | ...        | ...                   | ...         | ...         | ...         | ...          | ...                         |
| Tuberculosis Meningitis             | ...           | ...        | ...        | ...        | ...                   | ...         | ...         | ...         | ...          | ...                         |
| Tuberculosis Peritonitis            | ...           | ...        | ...        | ...        | ...                   | ...         | ...         | ...         | ...          | ...                         |
| Other Tubercular Disease            | ...           | ...        | ...        | ...        | ...                   | ...         | ...         | ...         | ...          | ...                         |
| Meningitis (not tubercular)         | ...           | ...        | ...        | ...        | ...                   | ...         | ...         | 1           | ...          | 1                           |
| Convulsions ....                    | ...           | ...        | ...        | ...        | ...                   | ...         | ...         | ...         | ...          | ...                         |
| Laryngitis ....                     | ...           | ...        | ...        | ...        | ...                   | ...         | ...         | ...         | ...          | ...                         |
| Bronchitis ....                     | ...           | ...        | ...        | ...        | ...                   | ...         | ...         | ...         | ...          | ...                         |
| Pneumonia (all forms) ....          | ...           | ...        | ...        | ...        | ...                   | 1           | ...         | ...         | ...          | 1                           |
| Diarrhoea ....                      | ...           | ...        | ...        | ...        | ...                   | ...         | ...         | ...         | ...          | ...                         |
| Enteritis ....                      | ...           | ...        | ...        | ...        | ...                   | ...         | ...         | 1           | ...          | 1                           |
| Gastritis ....                      | ...           | ...        | ...        | ...        | ...                   | ...         | ...         | ...         | ...          | ...                         |
| Syphilis ....                       | ...           | ...        | ...        | ...        | ...                   | ...         | ...         | ...         | ...          | ...                         |
| Rickets ....                        | ...           | ...        | ...        | ...        | ...                   | ...         | ...         | ...         | ...          | ...                         |
| Suffocation ....                    | ...           | ...        | ...        | ...        | ...                   | ...         | ...         | ...         | ...          | ...                         |
| Injury at Birth ....                | ...           | ...        | ...        | ...        | ...                   | ...         | ...         | ...         | ...          | ...                         |
| Atelectasis ....                    | ...           | ...        | ...        | ...        | ...                   | ...         | ...         | ...         | ...          | ...                         |
| Congenital Malformation             | ...           | 1          | ...        | ...        | 1                     | 1           | 1           | ...         | ...          | 3                           |
| Premature Birth ....                | 4             | ...        | 1          | ...        | 5                     | ...         | ...         | ...         | ...          | 5                           |
| Atrophy, Debility and Marasmus .... | ...           | ...        | 1          | ...        | 1                     | ...         | ...         | ...         | ...          | 1                           |
| Influenza ....                      | ...           | ...        | ...        | ...        | ...                   | ...         | ...         | ...         | ...          | ...                         |
| Icterus Neonatorum ....             | ...           | ...        | ...        | ...        | ...                   | ...         | ...         | ...         | ...          | ...                         |
| Other causes ....                   | ...           | ...        | ...        | ...        | ...                   | ...         | ...         | ...         | ...          | ...                         |
| Totals ....                         | 4             | 1          | 2          | ...        | 7                     | 2           | 1           | 2           | ...          | 12                          |

## SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

### Water Supply.

Sources of supply are as detailed in the report for the year 1939. The results of examination of samples supplied to me by Mr. R. A. Robertson, B.Sc., M.Inst. C.E., Engineer-in-Chief, South Staffordshire Waterworks Company, show that the supply maintains a satisfactory standard. It is constant throughout the district and is well distributed, not more than 20 houses being supplied by means of standards.

The complete report furnished to me by Mr. Robertson is as follows:—

1. (a) Frequent samples are taken at the sources of supply to Sedgley Urban District Council and, in addition, regular samples at not more than one month intervals are taken within the Urban District at the Company's waterman's house at 22, Greenway Gardens, Sedgley, and also at the Sedgley reservoir and tanks.  
These samples were examined chemically and bacteriologically with satisfactory results in all cases.
- (b) The water supply to the Sedgley U.D.C. area is chlorinated at the source of supply, this process being controlled by routine bacteriological and chemical examinations.
- (c) Frequent chemical analyses are performed. The average results for 1944 of the samples from the waterman's house show a total hardness of 9.6 parts per 100,000, of which 4.0 parts were permanent hardness. Chloride value was 2.76 parts, nitrate (N) .25 parts, Iron .003 parts and Manganese nil parts per 100,000 pH was 6.9.
2. The waters are not susceptible to plumbo-solvency, but are tested periodically for lead.
3. As a precaution against possible contamination as a result of work on mains, both in the case of new mains or repairs to existing mains, emergency chlorination is carried out on the site as a routine measure.  
Emergency chlorination is also practised in the case of wind-borne contamination in service tanks and reservoirs.

### Drainage and Sewerage.

This report is submitted by Mr. A. E. Dicks, Assoc. Mem. Inst.C.E., Surveyor.

During the year no new sewers were actually laid by the Council, but considerable trouble was experienced with certain sewers in Lower Gornal owing to colliery subsidence.



### Sewage Disposal Works.

Analyses of effluents from all Works are still taken regularly but, although they are reasonably good, these still show a certain deterioration. This is partly due to the age of the works and the overloading of the plants due to the extension of Housing Schemes.

### HOUSING.

No new houses were erected during the year. It has not been possible to re-house any of the tenants who continue to occupy houses already under demolition orders. Vacancies in Council houses are so rare that opportunity to deal with such cases as these and over-crowding is practically nil.

### Eradication of Bed Bugs.

During the year no houses were disinfested, the conditions of the district being very satisfactory in this respect.

### INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a) **Milk Supply.**—Particulars of inspections and details of work done will be found in your Inspector's Report.

(b) **Meat and Other Foods.**—Inspections have been carried out in the slaughter-houses, together with visits to retail shops. For further information see Sanitary Inspector's Report.

(c) **Adulteration, etc.**—The County Authority is responsible for all inspections and actions taken.

(d) **Chemical and Bacteriological Examination of Foods.**—The County is the responsible Authority.

### FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938.

I am indebted to Mr. T. H. Jenkins, Inspector of South Staffordshire, for the following report.

### PARTICULARS OF SAMPLES TAKEN IN SEDGLEY U.D. DURING 1944.

| Article.           | Samples taken. | Genuine. | Adulterated. |
|--------------------|----------------|----------|--------------|
| Milk ....          | 26             | 24       | 2            |
| General Foods .... | 7              | 7        | —            |
| Total ....         | 33             | 31       | 2            |

Only two samples of milk were reported against, these were slightly deficient in fat, and the sellers were warned.

## MILK AND DAIRIES ACTS AND ORDERS.

| Designation.        | No. of<br>Samples<br>submitted. |      | Cleanliness : |          | T.B. |   |
|---------------------|---------------------------------|------|---------------|----------|------|---|
|                     |                                 |      | Satis.        | Unsatis. |      |   |
| Tuberculin Tested   |                                 |      |               |          |      |   |
| (Pasteurised) ....  | 1                               | .... | 1             | —        | .... | — |
| Tuberculin Tested   | 3                               | .... | 3             | —        | .... | — |
| Pasteurised ....    | 1                               | .... | 1             | —        | .... | — |
| Accredited ....     | 1                               | .... | 1             | —        | .... | — |
| Non-designated .... | 29                              | .... | 25            | 4        | .... | 2 |
| Sterilised ....     | 1                               | .... | 1             | —        | .... | — |

Both the Pasteurised samples passed the Phosphatase Test<sup>t</sup> for Pasteurisation.

## PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

During the past year the district was remarkably free from infectious diseases, there being only 129 notified cases, as compared with 306 for the previous year. Of this total 36 were Scarlet Fever cases, a slight increase on the figures for 1943, when only 30 cases were notified. Seven patients were admitted to hospital and there was one death.

There was a welcome decrease in Diphtheria cases, which were reduced from 42 in 1943 to 10 during the past year. Four cases were admitted to hospital, the others being very slight attacks. There were no deaths from this disease.

Good use is made of diphtheria anti-toxin by the local practitioners, supplies being always available to them.

As regards non-notifiable diseases the district was also fortunate in this respect, the only trouble arising from Chicken-pox, 77 cases being reported from the Schools during the second quarter of the year.

There was no reported case of Ophthalmia Neonatorum during the year.

### Tuberculosis.

|            |         |      |      | Respiratory. | Non-Respiratory. |
|------------|---------|------|------|--------------|------------------|
| New Cases: | Males   | .... | .... | 5            | 2                |
|            | Females | .... | .... | 13           | 2                |
| Deaths:    | Males   | .... | .... | 7            | 1                |
|            | Females | .... | .... | 3            | 1                |

The number of cases notified for the year was 18 Pulmonary and 4 Non-Pulmonary, as against 23 Pulmonary and 4 Non-Pulmonary in 1943.

The yearly figures for the five years of war were as follows:—

|      |      | New Cases. |                | Deaths.    |                |
|------|------|------------|----------------|------------|----------------|
|      |      | Pulmonary. | Non-Pulmonary. | Pulmonary. | Non-Pulmonary. |
| 1940 | .... | 16         | 3              | 12         | 1              |
| 1941 | .... | 23         | 7              | 16         | 6              |
| 1942 | .... | 32         | 9              | 14         | 6              |
| 1943 | .... | 23         | —              | 14         | —              |
| 1944 | .... | 18         | 4              | 10         | 2              |

The heaviest incidence of Pulmonary Tuberculosis is in the age group 20 to 25.

This might suggest that the stress and strain and long hours of war work have loaded the dice against susceptible adolescents.

The number of deaths shown in the Table above, of course, do not appertain just to the new cases notified, but to the deaths amongst all known T.B. patients in the district during the year.

### Diphtheria Immunisation.

Dr. C. Simpson Smith, County Assistant School Medical Officer, reports that during the year he has given this protection to 223 children under five years, and 58 children between the ages of five and 15 years.

The total number of immunisations during the year was 225 under five years, and 71 between the ages of five and 15 years.

The estimated percentage of child population in the district who have now received a complete course of immunisation is, for children under five years, 76.4, and for children between five and 15 years, 81.5.

These figures are excellent, and evidence of the great efforts made by Dr. Smith and the Welfare Nurses to secure immunity of the children against this dangerous disease.

My thanks are also due to the Head Teachers of the various schools for their co-operation in this work.

### SCABIES.

This disease has been prevalent throughout the year, during which period 465 treatments have been given at the Cleansing Station. It is very necessary to follow up all known cases and to insist on regular treatment until cure is effected. There are



undoubtedly people in the district suffering from this complaint who do not obtain medical advice, and who try in various ways to cure themselves rather than reveal the fact that they have Scabies. As a result of this other people who make contact with them are liable to contract the disease.

### **VENEREAL DISEASE.**

The incidence of this disease in the district as revealed by enquiry at the Clinics in Wolverhampton and Dudley would suggest that it is extremely low.



TABLE VII.  
AGE-GROUPS OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES (EXCLUDING TUBERCULOSIS) NOTIFIED IN 1944.

| DISEASE.             | At<br>all Ages. | AT THE AGES SPECIFIED. |    |     |    |     |    |     |    |     |    |      |    |       |    |       |    |       |    |       |    |                 |    |
|----------------------|-----------------|------------------------|----|-----|----|-----|----|-----|----|-----|----|------|----|-------|----|-------|----|-------|----|-------|----|-----------------|----|
|                      |                 | 0—1                    |    | 1—2 |    | 2—3 |    | 3—4 |    | 4—5 |    | 5—10 |    | 10—15 |    | 15—25 |    | 25—45 |    | 45—65 |    | 65 and<br>over. |    |
|                      |                 | M.                     | F. | M.  | F. | M.  | F. | M.  | F. | M.  | F. | M.   | F. | M.    | F. | M.    | F. | M.    | F. | M.    | F. | M.              | F. |
| Scarlet Fever ....   | 18              | 18                     | —  | 2   | —  | 3   | 1  | 3   | 1  | 6   | 12 | 1    | 1  | —     | —  | 1     | —  | —     | —  | —     | —  | —               | —  |
| Diphtheria ....      | 3               | 7                      | —  | —   | —  | —   | —  | —   | —  | 2   | 2  | —    | 1  | —     | —  | 3     | 1  | —     | —  | —     | —  | —               | —  |
| Pneumonia ....       | 5               | 1                      | —  | —   | —  | —   | —  | —   | —  | —   | —  | —    | —  | —     | —  | —     | 2  | —     | 3  | —     | —  | 1               |    |
| Puerperal Pyrexia    | —               | 3                      | —  | —   | —  | —   | —  | —   | —  | —   | —  | —    | —  | —     | —  | 1     | —  | 2     | —  | —     | —  | —               |    |
| Erysipelas ....      | —               | 2                      | —  | —   | —  | —   | —  | —   | —  | —   | —  | —    | —  | —     | —  | 1     | —  | —     | —  | —     | —  | —               |    |
| Whooping Cough       | 26              | 21                     | 4  | 6   | 5  | 4   | 6  | 4   | 2  | 3   | 3  | —    | —  | —     | —  | —     | —  | —     | —  | —     | —  | —               |    |
| Measles ....         | 11              | 12                     | —  | —   | —  | 3   | 1  | 1   | 1  | 3   | 4  | 2    | 1  | 1     | 1  | 1     | —  | —     | 1  | —     | —  | —               |    |
| Dysentery ....       | 1               | —                      | —  | —   | —  | —   | —  | —   | —  | —   | —  | —    | —  | —     | —  | —     | 1  | —     | —  | —     | —  | —               |    |
| Cerebro-Spinal Fever | 1               | —                      | 1  | —   | —  | —   | —  | —   | —  | —   | —  | —    | —  | —     | —  | —     | —  | —     | —  | —     | —  | —               |    |
| Totals ....          | 65              | 64                     | 5  | 3   | 8  | 5   | 10 | 8   | 8  | 4   | 9  | 8    | 21 | 3     | 3  | 1     | 7  | 4     | 4  | 3     | —  | —               | 1  |

## REPORT OF SANITARY INSPECTOR.

### STAFF.

During the year, my two pupil assistants were called to H.M. Forces. I have thus been left without assistance for outside work. The office staff is adequate, but one inspector is insufficient for a district of about 22,000 population, especially when it is remembered that I am also responsible for Public Cleansing, and have not even a foreman to help here. Much more work could have been done in many directions had it not been physically impossible. To my office staff, who have co-operated loyally during a difficult year, I extend my grateful thanks.

### HOUSING.

1944 saw the housing position still worsening. Very few of the people who have married during the war years have managed to find houses of their own. Most of them are living in lodgings or with relatives, and many are already with growing families.

Overcrowding is acute, but accurate statistics on this point are impossible until a new survey of the district has been made. Many cases are, however, brought to our notice, and the register is amended from time to time as fresh information reaches us. At the end of 1944, we had details of 149 cases

During the year only three Council Houses became void. The difficulty of letting these, out of a waiting list of several hundreds, and with the minimum of dissatisfaction, was a job worthy of Solomon. The task of selecting new tenants has been delegated by the Housing Committee to myself and Mr. Ratcliffe, the Collector, and this system has worked well during the war years, without any hopes, nevertheless, of pleasing everyone. Most applicants for houses imagine that their own case must be the worst in the district. It is only officials, dealing intimately with the whole of the public who realise the adverse conditions under which many of the population are living.

The housing problem is certainly the most important before us to-day, and no pains are being spared by the Council or Officials to prepare for the rebuilding programme which is the only solution.

The repair of existing houses, many of which had fallen into serious dilapidation, was given a great deal of attention during the year. While a considerable amount of work was carried out to a number of properties, the shortage of labour in the building trades drastically restricted the activities of the department. Some of the men, sent by the Ministry of Labour to building contractors

in the area, proved absolutely useless. I am afraid that unless further skilled labour is shortly released to the building trades, the deterioration in the property in this district will be serious. Many houses will become beyond repair and require to be condemned, which will further accentuate our re-housing difficulties.

### FOOD INSPECTION.

Only one slaughterhouse is at present in use in the district—a small bacon factory where 591 pigs were inspected during the year.

In addition to these, 176 cottagers' pigs were inspected at various premises throughout the district.

From the total of 767 pigs inspected, 13 cwts. 5½ lbs. of meat was condemned, details given below.

#### Affected with Tuberculosis.

|                  |      |      |      |    |
|------------------|------|------|------|----|
| Heads            | .... | .... | .... | 65 |
| Plucks           | .... | .... | .... | 16 |
| Mesenteries      | .... | .... | .... | 13 |
| Lungs and Hearts | .... | .... | .... | 2  |

#### Affected with other diseases.

|               |       |             |
|---------------|-------|-------------|
| Natural death | ..... | 2 carcasses |
| Asphyxia      | ..... | 1 carcase   |
| Pneumonia     | ..... | 2 plucks    |

Portions of organs affected with various minor diseases are not included in the above figures.

The percentage of pigs found affected with tuberculosis was 10 per cent.

In addition to the above, foodstuffs of all kinds were examined in shops, and the quantities detailed below were certified unfit for human consumption.

|            |      |      |      |          |
|------------|------|------|------|----------|
| Butter     | .... | .... | .... | 11 lbs.  |
| Fish       | .... | .... | .... | 77 lbs.  |
| Cheese     | .... | .... | .... | 44 lbs.  |
| Margarine  | .... | .... | .... | 23 lbs.  |
| Bacon      | .... | .... | .... | 88 lbs.  |
| Ham        | .... | .... | .... | 20 lbs.  |
| Eggs       | .... | .... | .... | 181      |
| Meat       | .... | .... | .... | 53 tins  |
| Fish       | .... | .... | .... | 66 tins  |
| Milk       | .... | .... | .... | 32 tins  |
| Soup       | .... | .... | .... | 5 tins   |
| Fruit      | .... | .... | .... | 1 tin    |
| Beans      | .... | .... | .... | 9 tins   |
| Syrup      | .... | .... | .... | 2 tins   |
| Fish Paste | .... | .... | .... | 133 jars |



## INSPECTIONS.

During the year, inspections to premises of various kinds numbered 3,029. In addition, 741 re-inspections were made.

The types of property visited are listed in the table below.

|                           |      |      |      |     |
|---------------------------|------|------|------|-----|
| Ashbins                   | .... | .... | .... | 126 |
| Ashpits                   | .... | .... | .... | 14  |
| Bakehouses                | .... | .... | .... | 20  |
| Billeting                 | .... | .... | .... | 1   |
| Cesspools                 | .... | .... | .... | 7   |
| Cottagers' Pigs           | .... | .... | .... | 144 |
| Drainage                  | .... | .... | .... | 50  |
| Dairies and Cowsheds      | .... | .... | .... | 145 |
| Fried Fish Shops          | .... | .... | .... | 8   |
| Food Premises             | .... | .... | .... | 54  |
| Factories                 | .... | .... | .... | 5   |
| General Nuisances         | .... | .... | .... | 29  |
| Houses under P.H.A.       | .... | .... | .... | 517 |
| Housing Act               | .... | .... | .... | 153 |
| Houses Fumigated          | .... | .... | .... | 45  |
| Infectious Diseases       | .... | .... | .... | 44  |
| Interviews                | .... | .... | .... | 93  |
| Letting of Council Houses | .... | .... | .... | 68  |
| Licensed Premises         | .... | .... | .... | 11  |
| Miscellaneous             | .... | .... | .... | 38  |
| Meat Shops                | .... | .... | .... | 20  |
| Overcrowding              | .... | .... | .... | 2   |
| Public Cleansing          | .... | .... | .... | 950 |
| Piggeries                 | .... | .... | .... | 13  |
| Re-inspections            | .... | .... | .... | 741 |
| Rats and Mice Destruction | .... | .... | .... | 208 |
| Slaughterhouses           | .... | .... | .... | 54  |
| Shops Act                 | .... | .... | .... | 30  |
| Salvage                   | .... | .... | .... | 161 |
| Tents, Vans, Sheds        | .... | .... | .... | 5   |
| War Emergencies—A.R.P.    | .... | .... | .... | 14  |

## NOTICES.

The number of informal notices served during the year was 404. Of this number, and those outstanding from the previous year, 237 were complied with during the year. A considerable number of notices were served towards the end of the year, and this accounts for the large number outstanding.

It was necessary to serve 25 statutory notices during the year and all of these were complied with.



The following table gives a summary of the work carried out in the district as a result of the above notices.

|                                       |      |      |     |
|---------------------------------------|------|------|-----|
| Ashbins provided                      | .... | .... | 169 |
| Bakehouses limewashed                 | .... | .... | 3   |
| Burst Pipes repaired                  | .... | .... | 11  |
| Caravans removed                      | .... | .... | 2   |
| Ceilings repaired or renewed          | .... | .... | 7   |
| Ceilings limewashed                   | .... | .... | 2   |
| Chimney Stacks repaired               | .... | .... | 3   |
| Cowshed repaired                      | .... | .... | 1   |
| Dirty Cows cleansed                   | .... | .... | 1   |
| Doors renewed                         | .... | .... | 6   |
| Doors repaired                        | .... | .... | 12  |
| Drainage altered                      | .... | .... | 11  |
| Drainage cleared                      | .... | .... | 13  |
| Drainage repaired                     | .... | .... | 2   |
| Firegrates repaired                   | .... | .... | 17  |
| Floors repaired                       | .... | .... | 17  |
| Houses cleansed                       | .... | .... | 4   |
| House Roofs repaired                  | .... | .... | 52  |
| Miscellaneous                         | .... | .... | 12  |
| New Wash-house provided               | .... | .... | 1   |
| Plasterwork repaired                  | .... | .... | 15  |
| Privies converted to chemical closets | .... | .... | 2   |
| Rooms cleansed                        | .... | .... | 2   |
| Sink Waste Pipes repaired             | .... | .... | 4   |
| Sinks provided                        | .... | .... | 6   |
| Spouting repaired                     | .... | .... | 22  |
| Stair Treads repaired                 | .... | .... | 10  |
| Walls pointed                         | .... | .... | 11  |
| Walls limewashed                      | .... | .... | 8   |
| Washing Boilers repaired or renewed   | .... | .... | 15  |
| Water Supply provided                 | .... | .... | 3   |
| W.C.'s cleansed                       | .... | .... | 1   |
| W.C.'s repaired                       | .... | .... | 3   |
| W.C. new pans provided                | .... | .... | 3   |
| W.C. cisterns repaired                | .... | .... | 13  |
| W.C. provided                         | .... | .... | 1   |
| Windows repaired                      | .... | .... | 35  |
| Windows provided                      | .... | .... | 8   |
| Yards cleansed                        | .... | .... | 4   |
| Yard paving relaid                    | .... | .... | 7   |

### CLEANSING DEPARTMENT.

The year was one of constant struggle against difficulties. Many of the employees are elderly and able to do nothing but the lighter jobs. The switching of men in emergencies is therefore impossible. The high average age of the employees also resulted in an increased sickness rate, and many of our difficulties were due to shortage of staff. In addition to this, considerable trouble was experienced with our vehicles. The freighters used for refuse collection are ten years old, and without a spare vehicle a breakdown is a very serious matter. With all our difficulties, however, we managed to maintain a fortnightly collection throughout most of the year. Only on occasions did we get behind with this work. The same troubles were experienced with gully and cesspool emptying, and the clearing of privy ashpits. We triumphed over all difficulties, however, and the number of complaints received was remarkably low.

### SALVAGE.

During the year there was a further decrease in the amount of salvage recovered. The only item which showed any increase over previous years was bones. This was due to the placing of bone bins throughout the district. The increase in the weight of bones received was quite phenomenal during the first few weeks, but dropped as soon as certain sections of the public had found time to tear the bins down from the standards to which we had attached them.

My very best thanks are due to W.V.S. for their able assistance with the collection of paper throughout the year.

I append a table showing the tonnage of materials salvaged during the past five years.

|               |      | 1940. | 1941. | 1942. | 1943. | 1944. |
|---------------|------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
|               |      | Tons  | Tons  | Tons  | Tons  | Tons  |
| Kitchen Waste | .... | 8     | 116   | 222   | 194   | 181   |
| Paper         | .... | 90    | 106   | 127   | 92    | 68    |
| Tins          | .... | 39    | 65    | 75    | 41    | —     |
| Cullet        | .... | 12    | 29    | 26    | 33    | 24    |
| Metal         | .... | 17    | 10    | 14    | 13    | 8     |
| Jars          | .... | 10    | 10    | 14    | 16    | 9     |
| Bottles       | .... | —     | 8     | 10    | 7     | 5     |
| Rags          | .... | 2     | 5     | 6     | 6     | 5     |
| Bones         | .... | 5     | 5     | 4     | 4     | 5     |
| Rubber        | .... | —     | —     | 3     | 2     | 2     |
|               |      | <hr/> | <hr/> | <hr/> | <hr/> | <hr/> |
|               |      | 183   | 354   | 501   | 408   | 307   |
|               |      | <hr/> | <hr/> | <hr/> | <hr/> | <hr/> |

The prices received for the above-mentioned materials were:—

|                    | 1940. | 1941. | 1942. | 1943. | 1944. |
|--------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
|                    | £     | £     | £     | £     | £     |
| Paper ....         | 352   | 432   | 725   | 589   | 437   |
| Kitchen Waste .... | 35    | 158   | 371   | 311   | 285   |
| Rags ....          | 9     | 20    | 69    | 97    | 91    |
| Tins ....          | 35    | 64    | 92    | 41    | —     |
| Metal ....         | 34    | 30    | 43    | 39    | 20    |
| Bottles ....       | 32    | 32    | 43    | 38    | 32    |
| Jars ....          | —     | 28    | 52    | 70    | 38    |
| Cullet ....        | 11    | 25    | 23    | 33    | 24    |
| Bones ....         | 15    | 18    | 12    | 18    | 23    |
| Rubber ....        | —     | —     | 4     | 6     | 2     |
|                    | —     | —     | —     | —     | —     |
|                    | £527  | £807  | £1434 | £1242 | £952  |
|                    | —     | —     | —     | —     | —     |

### VERMIN.

Considerable additional work was placed on the department by the delegation to the Authority of powers to administer the Rats and Mice Destruction Act, and by the Rat Campaign instituted by the Ministry of Food. A survey of the district was made and although we discovered numerous minor infestations, nothing serious was encountered, with the exception of the sewers and the sewage disposal works.

The sewers were treated according to the plan suggested by the Ministry of Food and excellent results obtained. The number of rats killed was enormous, but I hesitate to accept the figure which we worked out. The Ministry scheme for estimating the kill is sound enough in theory, but it fails to take cognisance of the human element in operators who are unused to clerical work or indeed to any work demanding accuracy and acumen.

All the other premises which the survey disclosed as rat infested were treated with good results.

Considerable time was also spent during the summer and autumn in dealing with infestations of cockroaches and ants. At no time did the infestations reach alarming proportions, but a lot of work had to be done to prevent any danger of this.

So far as I am aware, the district is entirely free from bugs. It is now several years since I last saw any of these vermin. A few houses which were formerly infested are visited occasionally, but no sign of re-infestation has yet occurred. In fact, this district is remarkably clean in comparison with other districts in which I have worked, and for a mining district the general standard of sanitation is very high.

DAVID J. W. ROBERTSON,

Sanitary Inspector.









